

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CHESTER-LE-STREET



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1963

JOHN L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S. D.P.H.

Norman Ward Ltd.
Low Fell.

1964.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29356386>

CHESTER-LE-STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CHESTER-LE-STREET

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1963

J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

CHESTER-LE-STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
CHESTER-LE-STREET.

*The Chairman and Members of the
Chester-le-Street Urban District Council*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1963.

Both the Birth Rate and the Death Rate showed an increase as compared with 1962—the Birth Rate showing a quite considerable rise.

The Infantile Mortality Rate continued at a low level—about one third of the rate for the County.

With regard to infectious diseases the large increase was due to the fact that 1963 was a “measles year” but there were also rises in food poisoning and in whooping cough notifications. Control of infection has to a large extent been achieved—viz. fall in tuberculosis; diphtheria etc.—what is needed now to reduce loss of life is control of accidents; coronary thrombosis and cancer.

With regard to environmental improvements, it is to be noted that the Sewage Works extensions were well under way by the end of the year.

A total of 184 new houses were built in the district during the year—of these private building was responsible for 131 which was a large increase on previous figures.

Notable during the year was the commencement in the town of certain services for the aged. Meals on Wheels for aged housebound, and a chiropody clinic for the aged became available. Voluntary workers once again showing their willingness to devote their spare time towards helping those in need.

The routine work of the Public Health Inspector continued throughout the year. Housing repairs; housing condemnations; investigation of nuisances all had their share of his time.

Improvement Grants were more than double compared with 1962. Continued attention by him to the hygiene in food shops gradually brings improved standards.

I wish to thank the Chairman and all members of the Council for the continued support and help and also the various members of the Staff for their efforts during the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. L. SIDDLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

1963

COUNCILLOR N. HOLYOAKE, M.M. (Chairman)

COUN. G. BAMBROUGH

COUN. R. PORTER

COUN. T. E. DAVISON

COUN. J. POWNEY

COUN. MRS. A. EYEINGTON

COUN. MRS. D. H. RIDDELL, J.P.

COUN. W. GOWLAND

COUN. N. RIDDELL

COUN. S. HEMINGWAY

COUN. H. C. SPEARS

COUN. C. F. C. LAWSON, J.P.

COUN. L. USHER, J.P.

COUN. J. MCGORRIGAN

COUN. C. M. WAGGET

COUN. J. MILLER

COUN. H. B. YOUNG

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:—

JOHN LANGLEY SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
(Joint appointment with R.D.C. and Durham C.C.)

Public Health Inspector:—

PHILIP McKENNA, M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Operator:—

JOHN KNOX

Clerical Staff:—

LINDA A. GOWLAND

County Area No. 4 Health Clerk:—

ROBERTA R. PICK

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1st April, 1963—31st March, 1964

Area	2,656 Acres
Population estimated mid-year 1963	19,220
Number of inhabited houses	6,563
terrace houses	2,015
detached houses	211
semi-detached houses	1,173
Farm houses and cottages	13
houses and shops combined	57
council houses	3,094
Rateable Value	£542,322
Estimated product of the penny rate	£2,160

During the year the industrial activities in the district were reduced by the closing down of the Pelaw Colliery and of the Stella Coke Works.

As the residential character of the town becomes more marked so does the district become increasingly attractive to people working on the Tyne or Wear who wish to live away from the industrial centres.

Improvements in the town centre have continued and the opening up of the old cemetery to form an open space adjoining the Burns Green has greatly enhanced the appearance of that particular locality. Further improvements envisaged round the church will eventually make the church and its surrounds an even more impressive centre for the town.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General’s estimated mid-year population for 1963 was 19,220 as compared with 19,070 for 1962.

The population figures in the Wards as shown by the 1961 Census were supplied by the Registrar General. The table below shows the figures as compared with those of the 1951 Census.

Ward	1951		1961	
	Census Figures		Census Figures	
North		5,471		5,376
West		3,775		3,494
Central		2,859		2,303
South		2,532		4,407
Pelton Fell		3,028		2,931
Chester Moor		873		457

Births

There were 362 live births during 1963 as compared with 303 in 1962. The respective crude Birth Rates being 18.8 in 1963 and 15.8 in 1962. The Comparability Factor for births was 1.03.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births			
Legitimate	178	166	344
Illegitimate	14	4	18
			<hr/> 362

Illegitimate live births were 4.9 per cent of total live births.

Still Births			
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			<hr/> 4

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births—10.9.

Deaths

The number of deaths during 1963 was 283 compared with 265 in 1962. The Crude Death Rate for 1963 was 14.8 and 13.9 for 1962.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1963

TABLE 1

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population									Rate per 1,000 live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Influenza	Tuberculosis (all forms)	Acute Poliomy- elitis & polio- encephalitis	Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	Coronary and arteriosclerotic heart disease	Total Deaths under 1 year of age
ENGLAND AND WALES	18.2	17.2	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.52	2.29	21.1
DURHAM COUNTY	18.2	19.1	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.08	0.06	0.00	0.47	2.35	22.45
CHESTER-LE-STREET	18.8	10.9	14.8	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.1	0.05	0.00	0.52	2.25	8.2

TABLE 2

Cause of Death	Total all ages		Under 1 year	1—											75+
	M	F		1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	85	121		
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Syphilitic Disease	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	5	
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8	—	—	—	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	8	—	—	4	
Diabetes	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	—	—	19	
Coronary Disease, Angina	43	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	13	25	—	—	27	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Other Heart Diseases	10	13	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	8	—	—	12	
Other Circulatory Disease	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	10	
Influenza	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Pneumonia	12	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	14	
Bronchitis	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	6	—	—	4	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Congenital Malformation	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	12	10	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	3	—	—	10	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
All other Accidents	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Suicide	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	160	123	3	1	2	2	6	22	41	85	121				

The following were the chief causes of death during the year:—

TABLE 3

<i>Causes of Death</i>	1963		1962	
	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Per cent of total Deaths</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Per cent of total Deaths</i>
1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	144	50.9	132	49.8
2. Cancer.....	47	16.6	44	16.6
3. Respiratory Diseases	44	15.5	31	11.7
4. Violence—				
Road Traffic Accidents 2—6				
Other Violent Causes 10—12	12	4.2	18	6.8
5. Tuberculosis	1	0.3	—	—

There was a rise in the total number of deaths as compared with 1962—from 265 to 283.

We have now come to accept that the main cause of death in the community is disease of heart and circulatory system. Half of the deaths were included in this group.

Coronary artery disease was responsible for 72 deaths—a quarter of all the deaths. The number of working years lost through deaths from coronary artery disease was 270 years, approximately one quarter of the total working years lost through death.

The percentage of deaths due to cancer remained unchanged. Deaths from cancer of the lung more than doubled and followed the normal pattern of male predominance—10 male to 2 female.

Deaths under heading of 'Violent' fell and in particular deaths from motor vehicle accidents dropped from 6 in 1962 to 2 in 1963.

Infant Mortality

There were 3 deaths during the year of infants under 1 year of age. This was the same as for 1962. The Infant Mortality Rate showed a fall from 9.9 to 8.2. The Urban District Infant Mortality Rate has now continued for 3 years to be below the National figures and the County figures. In fact for the past 2 years the figure has been less than half the National figure.

In analysing the 3 deaths it is noticeable that all were males. The one child who survived beyond 4 weeks died of pneumonia. The other two children did not survive more than 24 hours.

TABLE 4

<i>Cause of Death</i>			<i>Age at Death</i>
Hyaline Membrane Disease	.....	.....	1 day
Prematurity	.....	.....	1 day
Broncho Pneumonia	.....	.....	3 months

Neonatal Mortality Rate	.....	.....	5.5
Early neonatal Mortality Rate	.....	.....	5.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate	.....	.....	16.3

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths during the year under this heading.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, is in the New Institute of Pathology at the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The Director is Dr. J. H. Hale.

The Laboratory continued to provide help in carrying out bacteriological examinations of various samples (Water, Ice-Cream etc.), submitted by the Health Department.

(2) Local Health Authority Services

The Administrative County is divided up into twelve areas, Chester-le-Street Urban and Rural Districts forming No. 4 Area. For each area, a Health Sub-Committee has been appointed to exercise on behalf of the County Health Committee, certain functions relating to services under the National Health Services Act, 1946.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the Statistics concerning the services in this part of the report.

(a) Health Visitor Service

The number of health visitors in the area is 2 and the following is a summary of the work done by them during the year ended 31st December, 1963.

Domiciliary Visits

1. Maternity and child welfare	4,295
2. Tuberculosis	134
3. Mentally handicapped	153
4. Schools	225
5. General health	90
6. Aged People	549

Summary

Ineffective visits	667
Total number of visits	6,113
Number of effective visits	5,446
Time (as days) spent on visits (routine, other and effective)	227
Average daily number of effective visits per health visitor	24

Clinics, etc., work

Time (as days spent)	
(a) at maternity and child welfare centres	205
(b) at chest clinics	8
(c) at school head to head inspections	9
(d) at school medical inspections	7
(e) at school clinics	2
(f) at special schools	20

(b) *Clinics*

The Mains Farm House, West Lane Clinic is used to provide accommodation for various clinics run by the County Council: Telephone No. Chester-le-Street 3286.

Ante-natal	Birth Control
Relaxation	Post-natal
Child Welfare	Artificial Sunlight

Distribution of Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and vitamin tablets are distributed from the Welfare Centre as follows:—

Tuesday	—	all day
Friday	—	afternoon only

(c) *Domiciliary, Midwifery and Home Nursing Services*

This is a Durham County Council Service. Working in the district there are 2 district nurses and 3 district midwives.

A summary of the work done is given below:—

Midwifery

No. of midwives employed	3
Work undertaken during year—	
Midwifery cases	86
Maternity cases	4
Hospital discharges	113

Home Nursing

Staff	Medical		Surgical		Tuberculosis		Maternal Complica- tions		Other Visits	Total	
	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits		Cases	Visits
2 District Nurses	125	3,567	29	855	16	640	2	27	260	172	5,349

Included in this table—
Patients 65 years and over 105 cases with 2,844 visits
Patients under 5 years 3 cases with 87 visits
Visits for injections only 1,389

(d) Ambulance Service

The Chester-le-Street Urban District is served principally by the Ambulance Depot situated at Osborne Road, Chester-le-Street. This depot has an establishment of 1 Depot Superintendent, 11 driver-attendants and 5 vehicles. The depot operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and is closed on Saturdays. The remainder of each 24 hours is covered by vehicles from Durham, New Herrington or Stanley depots. Overall control is exercised by a Central Control at Durham where, by a system of direct telephone lines and radio, close supervision is kept on vehicles operating in all parts of the county, thus enabling any area to be reinforced as necessary.

All requests for ambulance transport in the area are made to the Central Control at Durham, where a 24-hour service is maintained.

The following table shows the work undertaken by the Chester-le-Street depot during the year, but it should be noted that these figures will include patients from areas other than the Urban District and that the conveyance of patients residing in the Urban District is not restricted to the Chester-le-Street depot, but may be under-taken by vehicles from other depots passing through the area.

Last year's figures are given in brackets.

Journeys	Patients carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
5,079 (5,055)	1,836 (2,163)	18,084 (16,474)	19,920 (18,637)	104,776 (104,274)

(e) Domestic Help

Domestic Helps are provided by the County Council where necessary in cases of sickness, childbirth, infirmity or other household emergencies.

Cases attended 1st January, 1963	86
New cases served during year	76
Cases terminated	51
Cases attended at 31st December, 1963	111
No of home helps employed during year	76

Number of cases provided during year—

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	6
(b) Tuberculosis	2
(c) Chronic sick (including aged and infirm)	112
(d) Others	42

(f) Prevention of Illness and After-Care

Under this section of the National Health Service the Durham County Council supply nursing requisites on loan to those needing them. A fee is charged, the assessment of which depends on income and type of article borrowed. All these articles are stored in Durham City and have to be brought out to the place where they are required.

(g) School Health Service

The School Health Service is run by the Durham County Council from headquarters at the County Hall, Durham.

The nearest clinic for Chester-le-Street schoolchildren is at Birtley. The clinic is open daily and is attended on Monday and Wednesday by a School Medical Officer.

Routine medical inspections of children are carried out in the schools by a Medical Officer.

(3) Hospital Services

The population of the district is in the main dealt with by the Durham Group of Hospitals. The hospitals situated in Chester-le-Street are the General Hospital and Infectious Diseases Hospital.

During the year the Hospital Plan for England and Wales insofar as it concerned the Durham Group of Hospitals was brought to the notice of the Council.

(4) Executive Council Services

The Executive Council for the County of Durham is the body responsible for the administration of the General Practitioner Services in the District.

The General Practitioner Services consist of the Family Doctor Service, the General Dental Service, the Pharmaceutical Service and the Supplementary Ophthalmic Service, each providing the patient with the individual attention needed. These services are available to all civilians according to their medical need.

(5) Health Education

Posters and leaflets were distributed as in previous years and support given thereby to the National campaigns.

The Booklet "Better Health" was sent out as in previous years.

(6) National Assistance Act, 1948

During the year it was proposed to move compulsorily a man living in an adapted pig sty.

He agreed to go into a hostel voluntarily at the last minute so that compulsion was unnecessary.

(7) Meals on Wheels

A meals on wheels scheme for providing hot, cooked meals to aged housebound persons was started in June in conjunction with the W.V.S. The Council provides a van and finances the scheme; the meals are provided by a works canteen and the W.V.S. provide the personnel necessary for the running of the scheme.

In the initial stage 12 aged persons were being provided with a meal twice weekly.

The number of aged persons was increased to 24 toward the end of the year.

From the commencement of the scheme and up to the end of 1963 684 meals had been delivered.

One must thank the W.V.S. for the many hours their members give to this scheme which has proceeded without much difficulty since its inauguration.

(8) Luncheon Clubs

Luncheon Clubs for the aged have been under consideration—it was intended that a scheme could be started as soon as possible.

(9) Chiropody—Aged Persons

The British Red Cross Society started a foot clinic in August 1963. The County Council had agreed to pay a grant and the Urban District Council had agreed to allow the use of the Bullion Hall. This scheme has involved the members of the British Red Cross Society in much work which has been done for the benefit of the old people of the town. By the end of the year there were 125 pensioners on the books and 220 treatments had been given.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

Water is supplied to the town by the Durham County Water Board. Routine samples were taken by the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Of the 2 samples sent for bacteriological examination both were satisfactory.

One sample submitted for chemical analysis was also satisfactory.

All dwelling houses are supplied by the public water mains direct to the houses.

The question of fluoridation of the Public Water Supply has been discussed during the year. The Durham County Council which is the Health Authority have expressed themselves in favour of fluoridation.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The new extensions to the sewage works were well under way by the end of the year. It is expected that they will be completed some time toward the end of 1964.

Clean Air

The position regarding Smoke Control Areas remained unchanged. Following the receipt of the letter from the Minister at the end of 1962 no further steps were taken.

Daily reading of atmospheric pollution continued to be taken by your Public Health Inspector. These are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Warren Springs Laboratory for analysis and publication.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Caravans

From time to time it is necessary for the Health Department to check on caravans found in the district, in many cases the residence is only temporary. Where the conditions are unsatisfactory and no planning permission granted, steps are taken to have the van moved.

Riverside Paddling Pool

The position regarding the pool remained unchanged during the year.

Social Problems

Where dirty and unsanitary conditions are found in a dwelling house, necessary steps are taken to have the premises cleaned etc.

In one such case during the year much effort on the part of numerous social agencies was entailed. The Home Help Service of the County Council; the Hospital Administrative Staff; the W.V.S.; the National Assistance Board; a House Agent; neighbours and the staff of the Health Department were all involved in bringing the case to a satisfactory conclusion. The multiplicity of agencies involved makes co-operation of prime importance and fortunately this factor is usually predominant in dealing with the cases which arise.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

	Number of Inspections	Number of Informal Notices Served	Number of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Notice
Housing:				
Public Health and Housing Act	805	56	16	64
Overcrowding	—	—	—	1
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	8	2	—	1
Defective	25	19	3	17
Drainage ..	47	29	5	23
Water Supply	11	8	—	7
Food Premises	124	4	—	2
Shops Act.....	23	1	—	1
Dairies ..	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses:				
Public	—	—	—	—
Private	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.....	14	—	—	—
Offensive Trades.....	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	21	2	—	2
Keeping of Animals	4	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	5	4	—	2
Offensive accumulations	11	5	—	3
Smoke Nuisances	6	—	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ..	545	1	—	1
Licensed Premises	13	—	—	—
Food Inspections	63	—	—	—
Mobile Food Shops & Stalls ..	84	—	—	—
I.D. & Food Poisoning	69	—	—	—
Tital	1,878	131	24	124

6. RATS and MICE (Prevention of Damage by Pests) Act, 1949 Report for year ended 31st December, 1963

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) Agri- cultural
	NON-AGRICULTURAL				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	329	6,474	848	7,651	13
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	4	71	16	91	—
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common rat Major	4	56	9	69	—
Minor					
House mouse Major	—	15	7	22	—
Minor					
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	14	45	17	76	13
Number of properties found to be infested by:—					
Common rat Major	3	1	1	67	—
Minor	11	42	9		—
House mouse Major	—	10	3	21	—
Minor			8		
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	3	1	4	—
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common rat Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor					
House Mouse Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor					
5. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	195	275	68	538	14
6. Number of infested properties (in Sections 2, 3, 4) treated by the L.A.	14	53	21	88	—
7. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
1. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	45	10	2	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises).....	6	3	—	—
Total.....	51	13	2	—

2. CASES in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total.....	—	—	—	—

SECTION D

Housing

There were 53 council houses completed during the year. These consisted of 41 three-bedroomed houses and 12 flats. 131 houses were completed by private builders.

Houses Built since 1953

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Total
New Permanent Council Houses	140	111	109	108	116	129	122	70	43	84	53	1,155
Re-lets	59	81	72	48	49	101	76	118	146	117	104	971
Private	8	9	11	36	14	8	23	39	72	98	131	458

Rehousing

Rehousing on medical priority was granted to 7 families during the year. 49 families were rehoused from condemned property.

Rehousing from condemned property for the past 5 years:—

1959	47
1960	30
1961	11
1962	28
1963	49

The waiting period for a council house for persons on the ordinary list continues at about 10 years.

Slum Clearance

No clearance areas were declared during the year.

The details of action taken following reports on property by the Public Health Inspector are given below.

Closing Orders (1 part of a building: 1 house)	2
Demolition Orders	7
Order to determine a Closing Order in respect of Part of a House	1
Cosing Orders substituted for Demolition Order	2

Improvement Grants

Your Public Health Inspector dealt with 35 applications for Improvement Grants during the year. These were all Standard Grants and were all agreed to by the Council.

A summary of the work done in connection with standard grants since 1959 is given below.

Number of Applications Approved	74
Number of houses improved with assistance of grant	46
Amounts paid in grants	£5,395

Amenities Provided

Baths in bathrooms	39
Wash hand basins	41
Hot water supplies	34
Indoor water closets	42
Food stores	36

Overcrowding

Towards the end of the year an overcrowding survey was started in the South Ward.

Handicapped Persons—Housing Adaptations

A number of minor alterations were made to Council Houses to help handicapped persons. In one case major alterations were made to provide downstairs bathroom and W.C. for a person who was permanently confined to a wheel chair following a accident.

SECTION E
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food Premises

Routine inspections of food premises by your Public Health Inspector continued throughout the year and it is pleasing to note that the general standard of hygiene continues to rise.

Following his visits he found it necessary to serve written notices in 4 cases.

Publicity material is distributed from time to time to food premises as part of the health department's educational function.

Ice Cream

There were 52 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture and for sale of Ice Cream.

Samples were taken by the Public Health Inspector during the year with the following results:

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Public Health Laboratory report of Provisional Grade</i>
8	Grade I
3	Grade II

Milk and Dairies

Only milk of specified designation may be sold in the district. The granting of Dealers Licences authorising the use of special designations is now the responsibility of the Durham County Council. The County Council staff take samples of milk for examination and copies of the results are sent to the Chester-le-Street Urban District. In all 85 samples were reported on.

Meat and Other Foods

No slaughterhouses now operate in the district and meat is inspected at the abattoir prior to its being despatched to this district.

The method of transport must be watched in order to ensure that gross contamination does not take place before reaching the retailer.

The following foodstuffs were found by the Public Health Inspector to be unsound and were voluntarily surrendered:—

Canned Fruit & Vegetables	855 lbs
Canned Meat	2,502 lbs
Canned Milk	42 lbs
Canned Fish	13 lbs
Frozen Liquid Hen Egg	98 lbs
Miscellaneous	67 lbs
Total	<hr/> 3,577 lbs <hr/>

Complaints to the department regarding foodstuffs were not numerous, foreign bodies in foodstuffs being the usual cause of complaint. A wasp in tinned pears and a nail in a bun constituted two of the complaints.

There is in Chester-le-Street one of the few plants in the country used for pasteurisation of whole egg. A batch of Polish Frozen Egg which on importation was found to contain pathogenic organisms was brought to this plant for pasteurisation and check samples were taken to ensure satisfactory treatment, before its release for sale.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Registration of Premises

Premises for manufacture, sale and storage of Ice Cream	52
Premises manufacturing Sausage, Potted Meat and Pressed Foods	10

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifications during 1963 numbered 348. The difference as compared with 29 cases in 1962 was almost entirely due to measles notifications.

Measles

During 1963 there were 276 notified cases. The figure for 1962 was 6, showing the difference between a “non measles” and a “measles” year.

Scarlet Fever

There were five notified cases. There have been only single cases notified in the two previous years.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified for the 14th consecutive year.

Immunisation

The immunisation figures for diphtheria for the past 4 years are as follows:—

	1960	1961	1962	1963
Primary Immunisation 0—15 years	27	300	242	330
Booster Doses	75	127	98	185

These indicated that in spite of the absence of the disease in the community, parents do realise that this disease could become prevalent again if precautions did not continue.

Poliomyelitis

1963 was the fifth successive “polio free” year.

Protection against Poliomyelitis

During the year the use of the oral vaccine continued. Its use has meant that almost all schoolchildren are protected against the disease.

During the year 172 primary courses of treatment were given to persons in the district and 246 booster doses were administered.

Whooping Cough

The eight notifications received during 1963 was an increase over the previous two years when the figures were 1962—4, 1961—nil.

The number of children protected against this disease continues to grow as more parents have their babies protected by the triple vaccine which protects against, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

During the year 299 children in the district were given a primary course of treatment and 77 were given a booster dose.

Smallpox—Vaccination

The number of persons in the district for whom vaccination records were received during 1963 was 488—primary, and 344—re-vaccination.

The increase in the number of vaccinations appears to be mainly due to increased foreign travel.

Tuberculosis

There were 7 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and 1 non-pulmonary. There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis—a man over 75 years of age.

The notifications show little change as compared with the figures for the past five years. The figures for the past 10 years are given below.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>	
	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1954	15	2	4	—
1955	16	1	1	—
1956	14	3	2	1
1957	10	5	2	—
1958	8	6	2	1
1959	9	1	3	—
1960	6	1	—	—
1961	11	5	1	—
1962	10	—	1	—
1963	7	1	—	—

Table showing age and sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths during 1963

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—24 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 years	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—74 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—

Typhoid Fever

This disease which is normally little noticed in the community became headline news as a result of two outbreaks during 1963. An outbreak in Switzerland early in the year resulted in a number of cases in this country. Fortunately no cases were notified in the Urban District.

The South Shields outbreak a little later in the year again caused much anxiety to all concerned but again the Urban District was fortunate in having no cases. Appropriate steps were taken in the district on both occasions to reduce the possibility of spread of the disease.

Dysentery

A rather explosive outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in a School in the town resulted in large numbers of absentees from the school in question.

Necessary action was taken and in conjunction with the County Council steps were taken to minimise the spread. This is a disease which from time to time shows itself particularly in school children but no further outbreaks occurred during the year.

B.C.G.

The B.C.G. scheme for vaccination of school leavers was continued for the eighth year. Arrangements were made in co-operation with the Chest Physician and the Mass Radiography Unit for the visit of a Caravan Unit. By using this smaller mobile unit all positive schoolchildren were X-rayed.

The figures were as follows:—

<i>School</i>	<i>Number Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Number Positive</i>	<i>Per Cent Positive</i>	<i>Number Vaccinated</i>
Grammar School	94	21	22.35	71
Modern School	221	18	8.15	193
R.C. School	19	—	—	18
<i>Total</i>	334	39	30.5	282

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1963

Disease	Under 1 year	1—5 years	6—15 years	16—25 years	26—45 years	46—65 years	66 and up	All Ages	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Notifications	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1
Measles	17	204	54	1	—	—	—	276	1	6	108	61	68	13	9	5	—	1	—	4	276	7
Whooping Cough	6	5	3	—	—	—	6	14	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	2	2	2	14	4
Pneumonia	1	3	—	—	—	1	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	1	—	7	5
Food Poisoning	—	6	—	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	8	2
Sonne Dysentery	1	5	1	—	1	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	1	8	6
Meningococcal	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	4	4
Tuberculosis (Pul.)	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	6	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS SINCE 1953

Disease	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	17	7	4	7	14	6	3	—	1	1	4
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid Fever)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	13	9	2	8	2	4	9	6	6	7
Erysipelas	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	3	17	18	38	9	13	7	15	—	4	14
Measles	45	18	131	18	264	14	251	14	282	6	276
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	8
Poliomyelitis	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	3	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	8
Tuberculosis (Pul.)	20	15	16	14	10	8	9	6	11	10	6
Tuberculosis (Non-Pul.)	1	4	1	2	2	2	3	—	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

CHESTER-LE-STREET U.D.

ENGLAND AND WALES

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

RATE PER
1000 LIVE BIRTHS

60

50

40

30

20

10

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

1955

1956

1957

1958

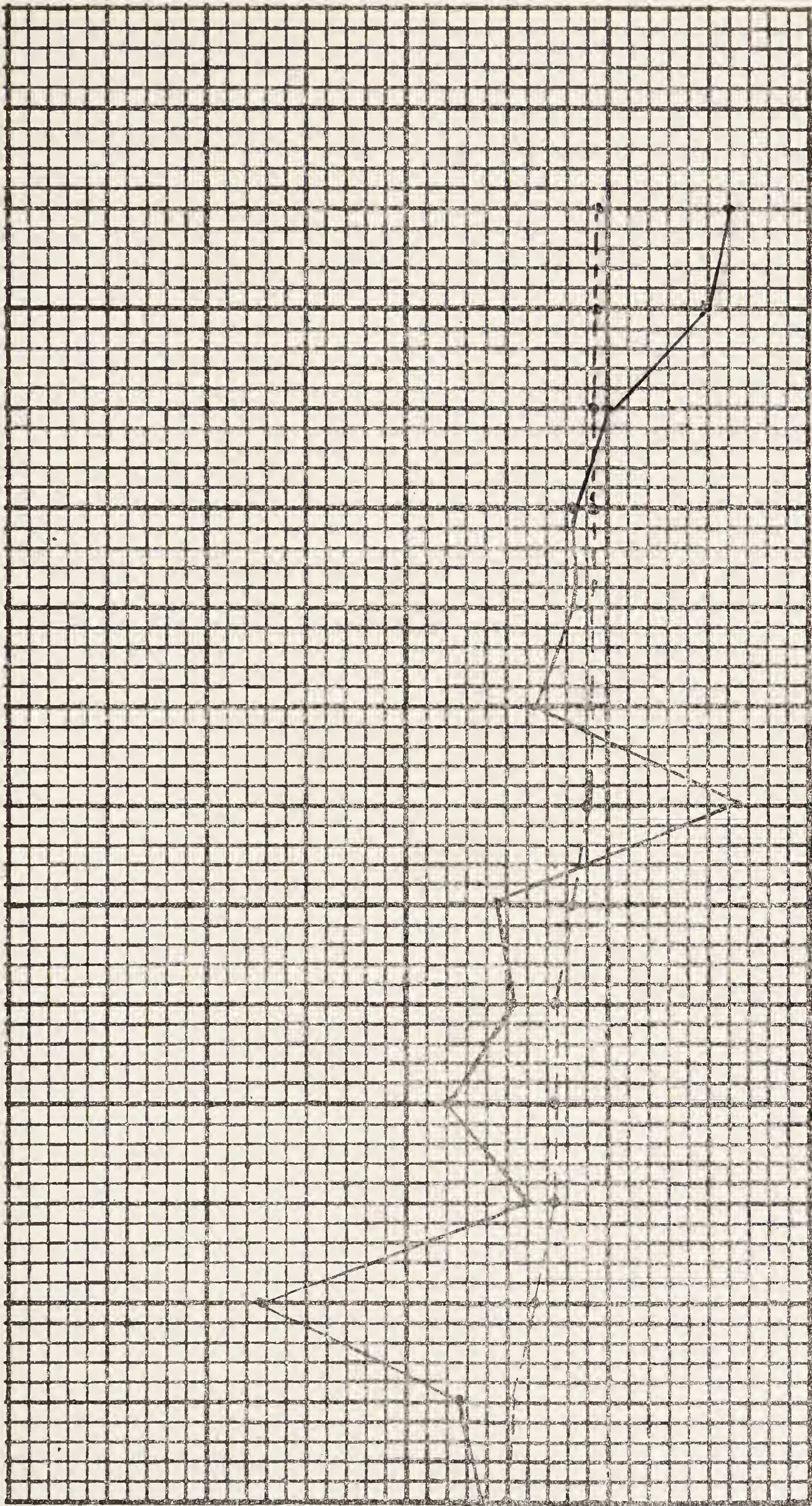
1959

1960

1961

1962

1963



PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE

CHESTER-LE-STREET U.D.

ENGLAND AND WALES

RATE PER 1000 POPULATION

